

Activity 3- 4th Grade Living History Day

Title: Living History Day – Ninety Six National Historic Site

Brief Description: Students will step back in time to experience the every day life of a soldier and colonist during the Revolutionary War Era.

Goal: Students will enhance knowledge of life during colonial times as well as knowledge of historical events surrounding the Siege of Ninety Six.

Objectives: Students will be able to summarize the events of the Siege of Ninety Six and the key figures involved. They will be able to describe what life was like for colonists and soldiers.

Essential Questions:

What was life like for people living during the colonial period?

What was life like for a soldier during the Revolutionary War?

What role did Ninety Six play in the American Revolution?

Time Required: 1 school day

Standards Addressed:

4-2.4 Compare the European settlements in North America in terms of economic Activities, religious emphasis, government, and lifestyles.

4-3.4 Summarize the events and key battles of the Revolutionary War, including Lexington and Concord, Bunker (Breed's Hill), Charleston, Saratoga, Cowpens, and Yorktown.

Materials/Resources Used: Two weeks prior to the trip you will need to place your food order. If you do this at Piggly Wiggly in Ninety Six, someone will deliver the food to Ninety Six NHS the morning of your trip. You will need to order the following items (The amount will be based on the number of students attending.): chicken, rice, onions, green beans(fresh), potatoes, ears of corn (unshucked), bananas, apples, loaves of French bread, cookies, heavy whipping cream (for churning butter), Kool-aid (prepared jugs), and bottled water.

You will need to gather a handkerchief and two hula hoops for colonial games. (It is helpful if your physical education teacher or a teacher assistant can cover this activity instead of a parent.)

Parent volunteers and/or teacher assistants will be needed to help with kitchen duties and restroom patrol.

A budget of \$1,200.00 is needed to cover the cost of the food and payment for the re-enactors.

Procedures:

1. To schedule the activity, you must call Ruth Wilkerson and also notify staff at Ninety Six NHS. She is our coordinator of the event and will schedule the re-enactors for you.
2. Students will be “greeted” by soldiers who will organize students into “troops” as they exit the bus. (If you choose to divide your groups ahead of time, be sure that you have obtained the number of stations to know how many groups will be available.) The re-enactors may bang on the bus or yell at students to fall in line. Be sure to tell your students ahead of time that this is an act, at least most of the time. Students who misbehave may get extra duties, such as walking tours or carrying buckets of water.
3. The commander of each troop, along with a teacher or school personnel, will march troops to the various stations. A musket will be “fired” signaling that it is time to change stations. The stations are listed below. Time spent at each station will depend on the availability of the number of re-enactors secured.

Blacksmith: The blacksmith will discuss topics from apprentices to how people got their last name during Colonial times. He will display iron items that he has crafted and will actually make an item as each group of students watch.

Woodcarver: The woodcarver will display bowls, eating utensils, toys, buttons, and other items that he has carved. As he explains that colonists had to make what they needed because they could not go to a store and buy it, he will demonstrate his craft by carving an item.

Apothecary: The apothecary will discuss the use of medicine and medical procedures used in colonial times. Students will learn about such practices as bleeding into a chamber to get rid of the illness as well as the primitive way of pulling a tooth or taking care of a limb that has been injured!

Soldier's Life: Students will visit a make-shift camp to discuss topics such as clothing, food, supplies, and living quarters for soldiers. They will get to see, and possibly hold, muskets and swords used in battle.

Kitchen Duty: Students will snap beans, shuck corn, and churn butter to prepare for their lunch. In addition, the ladies will show cooking utensils and demonstrate how coffee and various spices were prepared for use.

Visitor's Center: Students will view the video of the Siege of Ninety Six. Then they will tour the museum to see various artifacts that have been found at Ninety Six National Historic Site.

Walking Tour, Colonial Games, Snack, and Restrooms: Two groups of students will complete these activities at the same time. While one group is being lead on the walking tour (teacher and/or school personnel must accompany group), the other group will play Colonial games, eat snacks (bananas, apple slices, and water), and take a restroom break.

Lunch: The commanders will gather their troops and march in formation to lunch. Students will line up, choose a wooden bowl from the crate, and go through the line. Student should sit on their towels and have a picnic lunch. When they have finished, they will be instructed on the proper way to clean their bowl with a straw brush and wash and rinse it in two different pans of water.

Firing of the Cannon: A demonstration will be given on the precautionary steps that were taken to fire cannon. The culminating event of the day will be the actual firing of the cannon.

Evaluation: During the next social studies class following the trip, students will write two journal entries. In one they will take on the role of a soldier and tell about their life and the events that they encountered during the Siege of Ninety Six. In the other, they will tell about their life as a colonist.